

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Communication mailed March 15, 2006. In order to advance prosecution of the present Application, Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

In the Official Communication, the Examiner requested clarification as to the status of Claim 1. The status of Claim 1 has been clarified as being canceled as provided herein. The Examiner has also requested clarification as to the presentation of two extra independent claims. Claims 2 and 15 were placed into independent form in the previous Response to Examiner's Action. Along with Claims 11 and 16, the total number of independent claims stands at four. However, the Application was originally filed with six independent claims. Thus, no additional independent claim fees are due in this Application.

Claim 1 stands rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,182. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer so that this Application can proceed to issuance.

Claim 1-4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Frigo, et al. in view of Official Notice taken by the Examiner. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer so that this Application can proceed to issuance. Claims 2-4 were deemed allowable by the Examiner.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of Claims 2-4 if amended into independent form. Claim 2

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is now in independent form, with Claims 3 and 4 dependent therefrom. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-4 are in condition for issuance.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 11-16. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 11-16 are in condition for issuance.

CONCLUSION

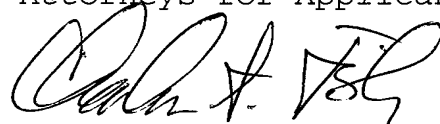
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments for this Application to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles S. Fish', is written over the typed name.

Charles S. Fish

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